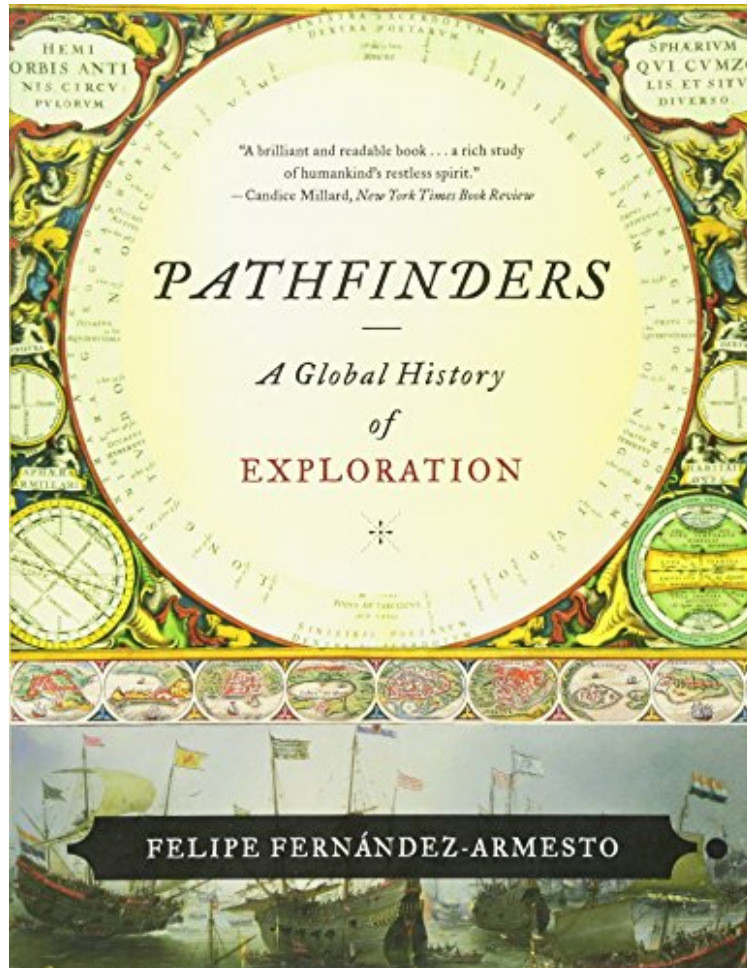


# Pathfinders: A Global History of Exploration

*Felipe Fernandez-Armesto*

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#197278 in Books Felipe Fernandez Armesto 2007-10-17Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.30 x 1.00 x 7.10l, 1.64 #File Name: 0393330915464 pagesPathfinders A Global History of Exploration | File size: 48.Mb

**Felipe Fernandez-Armesto : Pathfinders: A Global History of Exploration** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Pathfinders: A Global History of Exploration:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. 3 issues for me but still very well written and do recommendBy MARWhile this is mostly a good book with a very broad sweep I have several disagreements with some of the conclusions of the author. Three to be exact. First, he dismisses Sir Francis Drake as an insignificant explorer. While I recognize Drake's primary historical importance lies outside of his explorations, he did discover Drake's Straight and explored the west coast of North America and left invaluable information about the Native Peoples of northern California. Secondly, the Lewis and Clark Expedition he judges a failure. Despite their mapping of the Missouri River, their cataloging of over 170 species of plants and animals and their numerous contacts (mostly friendly) with many Native peoples and for some of them little else is known as they would be wiped out within a few years by smallpox or

war. Third, he would prefer that we not spend the few billions of dollars every year on Space Exploration when we could more usefully use that money for better purposes. I for one would rather we didn't spend so much money on weapons in the world - which is several orders of magnitude higher than what is spent to explore the solar system. In all you will gain something from this book. And I do not have to agree with any author 100% and don't expect them to share all my opinions. Only saying that these 3 things were very glaring issues that I at least have about this book. Very well written and still recommended. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Needs Maps By Walter A. Mizia The book presented many interesting views on why exploration happened as it did, geography, sea currents, wind and weather patterns, advancing technology, and human traits. It opened new ways of looking at exploration for me. The problem with this book is the lack of clear maps. The maps in the book are vague, hard to read, and require the reader to know ancient names of places referred to in the text. The book is worthwhile, but I recommend that the reader have an atlas on hand. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great history book By D.O.B. Great history book. There is definitely a bias toward the European history of exploration, but the reasons for that are fairly apparent and addressed in the book.

"A brilliant and readable book...a rich study of humankind's restless spirit." Candice Millard, New York Times Book Review Greeted with coast-to-coast acclaim on publication, Fernndez-Armesto's ambitious history of world exploration sets a new standard. Presenting the subject for the first time on a truly global scale, Fernndez-Armesto tracks the pathfinders who, over the past five millennia, lay down the routes of contact that have drawn together the farthest reaches of the world. The Wall Street Journal calls it "impressive...a huge story [told] with gusto and panache." To the Washington Post, "Pathfinders is propelled by an Argonaut of an author, indefatigable and daring. It's a wild ride." And in a front-page review, the Seattle Times hails its "tart and elegant presentation...full of surprises. Fernndez-Armesto's lively mind, pithy phrasing, and stunningly thorough and diverse knowledge are a constant pleasure." A plenitude of illustrations and maps in color and black and white augment this rich history. In Pathfinders we have a definitive treatment of a grand subject.

From Publishers Weekly Readers of history will delight in Fernndez-Armesto's latest. The Tufts historian (Millennium) deftly manages the near-impossible task of a comprehensive account of world exploration from the dawn of humankind while maintaining an interesting tone throughout. The evocatively titled chapters ("Reaching," "Stirring," "Springing") follow a well-organized outline, and short sections keep the reader from feeling overwhelmed with information. Beginning with Homo erectus's migrations from East Africa to the rest of the continent and to Eurasia a million and a half years ago, the book examines how and why cultures spread throughout the world. Each section of the globe is examined, from the Tigris and Euphrates to the Pacific Islands, the Middle East and Africa. Along the way, technological and scientific leaps, such as sails, cartography and the cure for scurvy are explained. Fernndez-Armesto also looks at the important role economics and politics have played in world exploration. The author excels when he narrows the focus, such as when he places Columbus into historical context so that the magnitude of his journey and its difficulty are fully felt. This volume truly covers everything the title claims, resulting in a rich history of our world. 16 pages of color illus., 44 bw illus., 48 maps. (Oct.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. A masterful narrative and a book that is an immense pleasure to read. - Josh Marshall, Talking Points Memo About the Author Felipe Fernndez-Armesto, the William P. Reynolds Professor of History at the University of Notre Dame, is the author of Pathfinders: A Global History of Exploration and Our America: A Hispanic History of the United States. He lives in South Bend, Indiana, and London.